

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims Pending:

- At time of the Action: Claims 1, 3-4, 20-22, and 30-42

1. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:
 - a port detector to create a list of virtual port names of existing communication ports in the computer system and to determine whether each communication port is either available for use or busy;
 - a system registry that contains configuration parameters of the computer system;
 - a port renaming module to:
 - check the system registry to identify one or more communication ports associated with one or more infrared transceivers;
 - rename each communication port associated with an infrared transceiver from a corresponding virtual port name to a different virtual port name;
 - display the list of virtual port names updated with the different virtual port names; and
 - display a status indicator associated with each different virtual port name indicating whether the corresponding communication port is available for use or busy.
2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the port detector cycles through the communication ports and attempts to open the communication ports, the port detector using results from the attempts to determine whether each communication port exists and whether each communication port is available for use or busy.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the port detector checks a software driver associated with an infrared transceiver to identify a communication port associated with the infrared transceiver.

5.-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A set-top-box-implemented method, comprising:

detecting available communication ports, the communication ports having corresponding virtual port names;

checking a system registry to identify at least one of the communication ports as being used in communication with an infrared device;

renaming each communication port in communication with an infrared device from its corresponding virtual port name to a different virtual port name to distinguish the communication port from the other available communication ports;

displaying a list of the virtual port names updated with the different virtual port names; and

displaying a status indicator associated with each different virtual port name indicating whether the corresponding communication port is available for use or busy.

21. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the detecting comprises attempting to open the communication ports as a way to determine whether the communication ports are available or busy.

22. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the detecting comprises checking a software driver associated with an infrared transceiver to identify a communication port associated with the infrared device.

23.-29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 3, wherein the port detector uses an operating system message returned upon each attempt to open a communication port to determine whether the corresponding communication port exists.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 30, wherein a message indicating no error or a message indicating access denied determines that the communication port exists.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 3, wherein the port detector uses an operating system message returned upon the attempt to open a communication port to determine whether the communication port is available for use or busy.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 32, wherein a no error message indicates that the communication port is available for use and an access denied message indicates that the communication port is busy.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein when the port detector detects a status change of one of the communication ports associated with an infrared transceiver, the port renaming module changes the displayed status indicator associated with the communication port that has the status change.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 34, wherein when the communication port becomes available for use the port renaming module changes the status indicator from busy to available for use and when the communication port becomes busy the port renaming module changes the status indicator from available for use to busy.

36. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method as recited in claim 20, wherein the detecting uses an operating system message returned upon

each attempt to open a communication port to determine whether the corresponding communication port exists.

37. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method as recited in claim 36, wherein a message indicating no error or a message indicating access denied determines that the communication port exists.

38. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method as recited in claim 21, wherein a no error message indicates that the communication port is available for use and an access denied message indicates that the communication port is busy.

39. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method as recited in claim 20, wherein when the detecting senses a status change of one of the communication ports associated with an infrared transceiver, changing the displayed status indicator associated with the communication port that has the status change.

40. (Previously Presented) The set-top-box-implemented method as recited in claim 39, wherein when the communication port becomes available for use, changing the status indicator from busy to available for use and when the communication port becomes busy, changing the status indicator from available for use to busy.

41. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

means for determining virtual port names for communication ports of a device that has computing capability;

means for checking an operating system registry of the device to determine communication ports associated with an infrared transceiver;

means for renaming the virtual port names of the communication ports associated with an infrared receiver to different virtual port names;

means for determining a busy status or an available-for-use status of each communication port associated with an infrared transceiver;

means for displaying a list of the virtual port names including the virtual port names renamed to different virtual port names; and

means for displaying the busy status or the available-for-use status associated with each different virtual port name.

42. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 41, further comprising:

means for automatically changing the busy status to an available-for-use status when a communication port associated with an infrared transceiver becomes available; and

means for automatically changing the available-for-use status to a busy status when a communication port associated with an infrared transceiver becomes busy.